

REMARKS

Claims 23 and 24 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment.

As an initial matter, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 16-22 stand allowed.

The only outstanding rejections relate to the prior art and are summarized as follows.

Claims 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Lill et al. (*Nature*, 1997).

Claims 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Gu et al. (*Cell*, 1997).

Applicants disagree with the §103 rejections for the reasons already made of record (see, e.g., the response filed on January 29, 2004). However, in an effort to expedite allowance of the application, claims 23-24 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore proper.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Additionally, since claims 16-22 are indicated as being allowed, no Notice of Appeal is being filed concurrently with this paper. The undersigned attorney shall phone the Examiner to confirm receipt of this paper and issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance for the application prior to the statutory deadline of **September 24, 2004**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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